

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303667 TOSEC 250037

53

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS ITEMS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1975.

FOR BARBIAN FROM S/PRS

1. WASHINGTON STAR EDITORIAL PAGE, "ANGOLA AND DETENTE".

BEGIN TEXT:

"TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, THE SOVIET UNION HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE THE WARNINGS OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION THAT ITS INTERVENTION IN THE FACTIONAL FIGHTING IN ANGOLA MIGHT MESS UP ITS DETENTE WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE KREMLIN HAS NOW SERVED NOTICE IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS THAT ITS SUPPORT OF THE LEFT-LEANING POPULAR MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA WILL CONTINUE. AS 'IZVESTIA' PUT IT, RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN THE ANGOLAN WAR IS 'AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY.'

"THE FORD ADMINISTRATION COULD HARDLY HAVE EXPECTED ANYTHING ELSE BY WAY OF SOVIET RESPONSE. THE WARNINGS FROM SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WERE FAR TOO AMBIGUOUS TO HAVE PRODUCED A CHANGE OF HEART BY THE LEADERS IN THE KREMLIN. ON THE ONE HAND, HE SAYS THAT SOVIET ACTIONS IN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 303667 TOSEC 250037

ANGOLA WILL MAKE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS MORE

TENSE AND THAT WE WILL 'NOT ACCEPT SOVIET MILITARY EXPANSION OF ANY KIND.' AND ON THE OTHER, HE ARGUES THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS IN ANGOLA, DETENTE IS 'IN OUR COMMON INTEREST' AND 'NOT A FAVOR THAT WE GRANT TO THE SOVIET UNION.' THE RUSSIAN LEADERS SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED FROM THIS THAT THEIR ADVENTURES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA DO NOT IMPERIL THEIR OTHER RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"THERE IS, IN FACT, NO VERY GOOD REASON WHY THEY SHOULD. THE PROBLEM OF WHICH TRIBAL FACTION FINALLY PREVAILS IN A FORMER PORTUGUESE AFRICAN COLONY AND THE PROBLEM OF MANAGING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MOST POWERFUL NATIONS IN THE WORLD SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH EACH OTHER. OUR RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET INITIATIVE IN ANGOLA SHOULD BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE PERCEIVED THREAT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS THERE. IN TERMS OF THE VERY MODEST SUM OF MONEY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ASKED FOR COUNTERING THE SOVIET AFRICAN INITIATIVE, THE THREAT IS NOT RATED VERY HIGH. AND THE SENATE, BECAUSE OF ITS OWN PECULIAR VIEW OF AMERICAN INTERESTS AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT, HAS TURNED DOWN EVEN THIS REQUEST.

"AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, WHAT HAPPENS IN ANGOLA IS NOT A MATTER OF PRESSING CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES. THE SOVIET UNION HAS SENT LARGE QUANTITIES OF AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA IN THE PAST WITHOUT NOTABLY ENHANCING ITS INFLUENCE ON THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED OR ON THE CONTINENT AS A WHOLE. THERE IS NO GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT IN THIS CASE.

"AS FOR THE QUITE SEPARATE QUESTION OF WHETHER DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS REALLY IN OUR COMMON INTEREST, THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. DETENTE, AFTER ALL IS VERY LARGELY A MATTER OF ATMOSPHERICS THAT HAS A CERTAIN DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPACT IN THIS COUNTRY AND, SO FAR AS CAN BE DEMONSTRATED, VERY LITTLE INFLUENCE ON THE POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION. ON OUR SIDE AS WELL, PURSUIT OF SUCH AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTER-

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 303667 TOSEC 250037

FERE IN DEADLY SERIOUS BUSINESS -- SUCH AS THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- WHICH REMAINS TO BE CONCLUDED. IN THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY, SLOGANS ARE MOST PERNICIOUS THINGS." END TEXT.

2. WASHINGTON STAR, MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1975:
OP-ED SECTION: CHARLES BARTLETT: "CHURCH COMMITTEE
ENDANGERED AGENTS" - BEGIN TEXT:

"IN THE INTERESTS OF REVIVING CONFIDENCE AND MOVING MORE FIRMLY INTO THE FUTURE, THE NATION SHOULD RESOLVE IN THE NEW YEAR TO STOP FLAGELLATING ITSELF WITH BARBED WISPS OF PAST HISTORY.

"THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CIA STATION CHIEF, RICHARD WELCH, IN ATHENS IS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE STAGEY HEARINGS OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE. SPIES TRADITIONALLY FUNCTION IN A GRAY WORLD OF IMMUNITY FROM SUCH CRUDITIES. BUT THE COMMITTEE'S PROLONGED FOCUS ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN GREECE LEFT AGENTS THERE EXPOSED TO RANDOM VENGEANCE.

"IN TRAVELS THROUGH EUROPE, THE DAMAGE OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE SEEMS UBIQUITOUS. THE CIA STATION CHIEF IN LONDON IS BETTER KNOWN TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC THAN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND LEFTIST PICKETS REGULARLY PARADE OUTSIDE HIS RESIDENCE. THERE AND ELSEWHERE THE PRESS HAS RELISHED THE CHURCH DISCLOSURES BECAUSE DISCUSSION OF THE DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE ARMS IS PROSCRIBED.

"IN MOSCOW SMUG PROPAGANDISTS TALK BY THE HOUR ON TV OF THE IMMORAL PERFIDY OF CIA AS REVEALED BY THE CHURCH ASSASSINATION REPORT. IN INDIA, MRS. GANDHI TENDS TO JUSTIFY HER ECLIPSE OF FREEDOM WITH SHADOWY ALLUSIONS TO HOSTILE FOREIGN FORCES. SHE AND OTHER ANTI-AMERICANS HAVE MADE CIA SYNONYMOUS WITH IMPERIALISM. AMERICAN MULTINATIONAL FIRMS ARE BELABORED WITH ALLEGATIONS OF CIA LINKS. THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAS CREATED A TAR BABY THAT CAN BE AFFIXED TO ANY AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

"THE EXPOSURE OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S PERSONAL LIFE TO THE SLINGS OF THE GOSSIP-MONGERS IS ONE RESULT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 303667 TOSEC 250037

TURNING YOUNG PROBERS LOOSE TO MINE OLD MUCK. COMMITTEE PARTISANS PLAYED THEIR DISCOVERIES AS IF THEY WERE POKER CHIPS. THE ALLEGATIONS OF KENNEDY'S LINK WITH A GANGSTER'S MOLL, WHICH SEEMS INCREDIBLE TO THOSE WHO RECALL HOW SINGLE-MINDEDLY HE WAS PURSUING THE PRESIDENCY IN 1960, EMERGED FROM A NON-PRODUCTIVE STRUGGLE TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY OUT OF HISTORY.

"OUT THE SENATE DEBATE ON ANGOLA HAS DISCLOSED THE MOST HARMFUL RESULT OF THIS STRANGE INQUIRY. HAVING MANAGED TO GIVE THE CIA THE IMAGE OF A FUMBLING MONSTER AND TO DISCREDIT THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, THE SENATE IS TRANSFORMING ITSELF INTO 100 SECRETARIES OF

STATE, ALL READY TO TAKE FLAT POSITIONS ON DELICATE FOREIGN

ISSUES BETWEEN SIPS AT THE PIERIAN SPRING. IN THE OLD DAYS POLICYMAKERS READ THE CABLES. THE ASSUMPTION NOW IS THAT ANYONE WELL-INFORMED IS PROBABLY IN ERROR, SO IT IS BETTER TO RELY ON HALF-INFORMED SENATORS.

"THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAS DONE SUCH A THOROUGH JOB ON THE CIA THAT NO ONE CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL POPULARITY CAN AFFORD TO SHOW IT ANY DEFERENCE. WHEN SEN. ROBERT GRIFFIN,

R-MICH., PLEADED THAT THE PRESIDENT BE LEFT WITH SOME FLEXIBILITY TO COPE WITH THE SOVIET INTRUSION IN ANGOLA, EVEN WISE, RETIRING SEN. JOHN PASTORE, D-R.I., PROTESTED THAT FLEXIBILITY MIGHT LEAVE A ROLE FOR THE CIA. 'I MEAN,' HE SAID, 'THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE GOTTEN US IN TROUBLE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.'

"THE CHURCH COMMITTEE'S SUCCESS AT PERSUADING THE PUBLIC THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH FOREIGN POLICY HAS FACED CONGRESS WITH A NECESSITY TO INTRUDE ON EVEN MINOR POLICIES. BUT THIS IS AWKWARD FOR LEGISLATORS. THE ANGOLA DEBATE WAS PUNCTUATED WITH DECISIVE ACTIONS ON AT LEAST 50 OTHER ISSUES. IT HAD TO BE TERMINATED TO MEET THE PRESSURES FOR CHRISTMAS ADJOURNMENT. THE SENATE WITHDREW INTO TWO LONG, SECRET SESSIONS TO SHARPEN ITS PERSPECTIVE, BUT AS SEN. MIKE MANSFIELD, D-MONT., SAID LATER, 'I DO NOT THINK MUCH GOOD COMES OUT OF THEM.'
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 303667 TOSEC 250037

"IF FOREIGN POLICY IS GOING TO BE MADE LIKE SAUSAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE GRINDER, THE PRODUCT WILL BE A LITTLE OF THIS AND A LITTLE OF THAT, NOT A SOLID REFLECTION OF THE BROAD NATIONAL INTEREST. WHEN LEGISLATORS ARE DANCING TO THE MUSIC OF LETTERS FROM HOME, PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND TIGHT SCHEDULES, THEY ARE GOING TO FIND IT HARD TO BE WISE AND CONSISTENT. LAST SUMMER'S TRAGIC ERRORS IN REGARD TO TURKEY DEMONSTRATED HOW SHORT-SIGHTED THEY CAN BE.

"IF THE PRESENT INSTITUTIONS DON'T DESERVE TRUST OR IF THE CIA'S USEFULNESS WAS DESTROYED BY THE CHURCH HEARINGS, CONGRESS HAS TO CREATE A NEW INSTITUTION THAT CAN ASSUME THE INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS WITH A REASONABLE HOPE

OF GAINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. IF THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON THE VALIDITY OF THE INFORMATION ON WHICH FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS ARE MADE, THE POLICIES WILL HAVE NO CONSISTENCY OR COHERENCE.

"IT IS NECESSARY FOR NATIONS, LIKE PEOPLE, TO LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES. BUT THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAS CREATED A

DANGER THAT THE NATIONS WILL BE PARALYZED BY ITS OLD
ERRORS. WHEN THE PAST IS VIEWED AS MORE THAN A PROLOGUE,
IT CAN QUICKLY BECOME AN ALBATROSS." END TEXT

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